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United States Department of Agriculture,
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS—Circular No. 54.
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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INDEXING AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE.

[This report was presented to the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations at the convention held in Washington, D. C., November 17–19, 1903.]

During the past year considerable progress has been made by the Department of Agriculture in the indexing of the literature of agriculture and agricultural science. The Library of the Department has regularly issued printed index cards for the Department publications. An extra number of sets of the index for the last Yearbook and for the later numbers of the Farmers' Bulletins have been printed to meet the demand for small libraries which have use for these publications. The Library has received an increase of appropriation which will enable it to extend its indexing, and arrangements have been made to prepare a card index of agricultural periodicals which shall be uniform with the cards already distributed. Indexes for the "Landwirthschaftliche Jahrbücher" and "Annales de la science agronomique" are ready for publication. The periodicals relating to general agriculture which are most frequently consulted, complete sets of which are in the Department Library, will be indexed first. In addition to the distribution of cards to agricultural colleges and experiment stations, provision will be made for their sale to institutions and individuals who may wish to procure them.

The Department Library has also made arrangements which will make it possible for other libraries to obtain from the Library of Congress catalogue cards for publications on agriculture. During the past six months of the fiscal year the copy for current accessions to the Library has been transmitted to the printing division of the Library of Congress for printing upon cards. Extra copies of these cards are available, at a small cost, on application to the Librarian of Congress. These cards may be ordered by simply sending the serial number found in the bulletin of "Accessions to the Department Library," and catalogue cards containing full descriptions of the books can thus be secured by agricultural college and station libraries at less cost than they could be prepared by each library. Special attention is called to the availability of this particular bibliographical matter relating to agriculture.

The card catalogue of the Department Library now contains about 110,000 cards, derived from the following sources: (1) Cards for the current accessions; (2) index cards for the publications of the Depart-

ment; (3) cards for articles published in certain scientific periodicals and issued by the publishing branch of the American Library Association; (4) cards for certain books in the Library of Congress which are of occasional interest to workers in the Department, and from their accessibility in the Library of Congress are not purchased by this Library; and (5) cards for current botanical literature prepared by the New York Botanical Garden.

The Library is thus in a position to render more efficient aid than ever before to the agricultural colleges and experiment stations by furnishing them information regarding agricultural and related literature, loaning books to the officers of these institutions with certain restrictions, and assisting in maintaining the agricultural libraries of these institutions on a more efficient basis.

The Office of Experiment Stations has now in press a general index to the first 12 volumes of the Experiment Station Record and Experiment Station Bulletin No. 2. It thus begins with the work of the experiment stations under the Hatch Act and covers the period down to the close of 1900. This index contains about 125,000 entries, and is undoubtedly the most extensive index to the literature of agricultural experimentation which has ever been prepared.

The Card Index of Experiment Station Literature issued by this Office has now reached No. 24,600, and is quite closely up to date.

There is still need that this association should continue active efforts along this line. Many of the institutions represented in the association should give greater attention to the better organization of their library work. The indexes on cards and in books already available should be so cared for and kept as to make them more thoroughly useful to the students and faculties. Continued efforts will also be necessary to secure from Congress additional funds as they may be needed to increase and keep up to date the indexing of agricultural literature on the plans now being worked out by the Department Library.

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Recommended for publication.
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Publication authorized.
James Wilson, *Secretary of Agriculture.*

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